

No. 5,528,374). Claims 14 and 24 are objected to and the Applicants appreciate they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants note that the same rejections have been asserted in the previous Office Action dated May 4, 2000 and respectfully believe that the Examiner has not understood the complete argument presented by the Applicants in their response to the previous Office Action that was mailed September 5, 2000. (See Response to Arguments, page 5, paragraph 6 of the present DETAILED ACTION.)

The Examiner correctly notes that “Barry differs from claims 5, 7 and 18 in that he does not disclose that the job distributor has a single RIP engine (processor).” (See the present DETAILED ACTION, page 3, lines 3 and 4). Further, to complete the 103(a) rejection it is asserted that “Matias discloses a printing apparatus in which a single RIP (16) processes jobs for plural print engines (figure 3).” This statement about *Matias* is correct as far as it goes, but it does not recite *all* of the features of the job distributor in the Applicants invention recited in independent Claim 5 or in independent Claim 18 that must be combined with *Barry et al.* in order for such an argument to succeed.

In Applicant’s Claim 5 as amended, “a job distributor having a single RIP engine for receiving said multiple page documents and generating therefrom rasterized page data *and providing said rasterized page data organized for parallel distribution to said inputs of selected different ones of said plurality of physical print engines according to print job parameters associated with said rasterized data.*” (Emphasis added.)

In the above passage from Applicants’ Claim 5, the text in italics is not disclosed in *Matias*, as it must be in order to sustain the Examiner’s 103(a) rejection. Therefore, the

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 as previously amended and Claims 6-17 dependent therefrom are not rendered obvious or unpatentable by the combination of *Barry et al.* and *Matias*. The Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection and the full allowance of Claims 5-17.

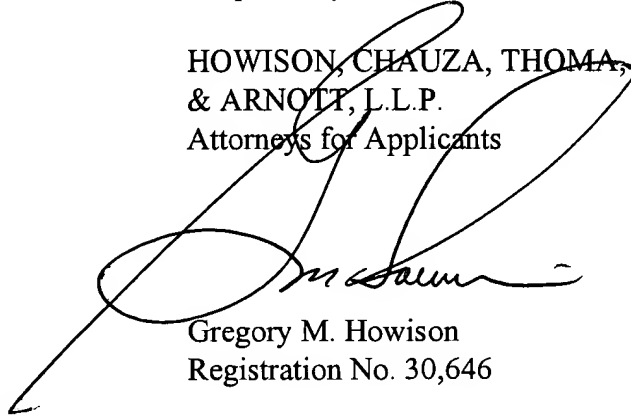
Further, as to Claim 18, *Matias* likewise fails to completely supply the disclosure missing in *Barry et al.* In Claim 18, the job distributor is recited as the combination of three structures: a *processor* (the single RIP engine which stores the rasterized images in association with information regarding final rendering thereof), an *image task manager* (retrieves the images and determines the print order according to the information regarding final rendering) and an *engine manager* (for selecting a one print engine to print each retrieved image according to the print order *and* distributing the image to the selected print engine). Since this combination of structures is not disclosed in *Matias*, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 18 as previously amended and Claims 19-27 dependent therefrom are not rendered obvious or unpatentable by the combination of *Barry et al.* and *Matias*. The Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection and the full allowance of Claims 18-27.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of the

claims as amended in the previous Office Action. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/TRSY-23,677 of HOWISON, CHAUZA, THOMA, HANDLEY & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Howison', is written over the printed name and firm name.

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May 3, 2001